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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1144
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0103
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1039

UNCLAS KAMPALA 000174

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: UGANDA WAITING FOR LANGUAGE ON RACISM BEFORE
TAKING A POSITION

REF: STATE 14204

¶1. (SBU) We spoke with Isaac Sebulime, the Director for Multilateral Affairs, at the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on February 18 and informed him about the presence of a U.S. delegation at the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group of the Review Conference on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (Durban Review Conference). Sebulime welcomed U.S. participation after a long absence. Asked if Uganda had developed a position on the issues at the conference, Sebulime noted that Uganda is between a rock and a hard place, with loyalties to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and a close bilateral relationship with Israel. He said that Uganda would not take a position until it had seen the language of the draft outcome document.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: Uganda has been loathe to vote against regional groupings to which it belongs, particularly the OIC. We do not expect Uganda to take a leadership role to support U.S. positions based on Kampala's voting record over the past year.
BROWNING